



APPENDIX A



Serial No. 09/216,545

Version Of Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Amended) A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said absorbent article further comprising:
 - a) an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges; and
 - b) a pair of opposed back panels which are permanently attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said back waist region of said absorbent article; and
 - c) a pair of opposed front panels which are refastenably attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint wherein said front panel and said back panel on each side edge of said absorbent chassis are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

12. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop [type] fasteners.

15. (Amended) A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said absorbent article further comprising:

a) an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

[b] a pair of opposed side panels which extend between said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region and said back waist region of said absorbent article to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings in said pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article, wherein each of said opposed side panels defines a first side margin which is permanently attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in one of said front waist region or said back waist region of said absorbent article to provide a permanent joint and a second side margin which is refastenably attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint;

c) a fastener located on said second side margin of each of said side panels which is releasably engaged with said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to provide said refastenable joint; and

d) a releasable bond located on each of said second side margins which releasably bonds said second side margins of said side panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to assist in maintaining said pant-like, disposable absorbent article in a prefastened condition.]

b) a pair of opposed back panels which are permanently attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said back waist region of said absorbent article;

c) a pair of opposed front panels which are refastenably attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint wherein said front panel and said back panel on each side edge of said absorbent chassis are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article;

d) a fastener located on each of said front panels which is releasably engaged with said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to provide said refastenable joint; and

e) a releasable bond located on each of said front panels which releasably bonds said front panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to assist in maintaining said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article in said prefastened condition.

17. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim 15 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop [type] fasteners.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim [21] 15 wherein each of said side seams defines a lateral outboard edge of said article.

26. (Amended) A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, an absorbent chassis which defines a pair of opposed side edges and a pair of opposed waist edges, wherein said pant-like, disposable absorbent article is made by a process which comprises:

- a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis;
- b) permanently attaching a pair of laterally opposed back panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in [one of said front waist region or] said back waist region to provide a permanent joint;
- c) refastenably attaching a pair of laterally opposed front panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in said [opposite] front waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint;
- d) selectively cutting said continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles;

e) folding each of said discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through said crotch region of said article thereby positioning said front panels and said back panels in a facing relationship; and

f) permanently connecting said front panels and said back panels together along a pair of laterally opposed side seams to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

27. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein said refastenably attaching includes refastenably engaging a fastener located on [side margins of] said front panels to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis in said [other] front waist region to provide said refastenable joint.

28. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim 27 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop [type] fasteners.

29. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim 27 wherein said refastenably attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said [side margins of said] front panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said [other] front waist region to assist said fasteners in providing said refastenable joints.

30. (New)

31. (New)